INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY **ISBA**

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REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

1. The Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (hereafter referred to as "the Agreement") entered into force on 28 July 1996. According to the Agreement, the membership in the Authority of those States and entities which have been applying it provisionally in accordance with its article 7 terminates upon entry into force of the Agreement, unless it is extended as provided for in the Agreement.

2. Under paragraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the Council may, upon the request of the State or entity concerned, extend membership of the Authority on a provisional basis for a further period or periods not exceeding two years provided that the Council is satisfied that the State or entity concerned has been making efforts in good faith to become a party to the Convention and the Agreement.

3. At the resumed second session of the Authority, held at Kingston from 5 to 16 August 1996, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the President, decided that, in order to facilitate participation in the meetings of the Authority by those States which had communicated in various forms their intention to continue implementation of the Agreement on a provisional basis but which had not, following the entry into force of the Agreement, notified the depositary in the required form of such intention, it was prepared to accept that such States should continue to participate in the meetings of the Authority for that session on a provisional basis (ISBA/A/L.10, para. 3).

4. In addition, at the same session, the Council decided that those States or entities which submit requests for an extension of membership on a provisional basis beyond 16 November 1996 prior to the next session of the Council shall be deemed to be members of the Authority on a provisional basis until the end of the next session of the Council, at which time the Council will deliberate on such request (ISBA/C/3, para. 3). Such requests should be submitted to the

Secretary-General of the Authority. At the request of the Council, the Secretary-General also circulated, on 27 August 1996, to those States and entities which, prior to its entry into force, had been applying the Agreement provisionally, a letter bringing to their attention the requirements contained in paragraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement concerning the continuation of participation on a provisional basis after 16 November 1996.

5. As of 25 February 1997, 14 States and one entity had submitted requests to extend membership on a provisional basis beyond 16 November 1996. They are: Belarus, Belgium, Chile, European Community, Gabon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Poland, Qatar, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The text of the requests appears in the annex to the present document.

Annex

BELARUS

[Original: English]

Note verbale dated 25 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the International Seabed Authority

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Council of the International Seabed Authority and has the honour to submit a request of the Republic of Belarus for an extension of its membership in the Authority on a provisional basis beyond 16 November 1996 for the period of two years.

BELGIUM

[Original: French]

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

I have the honour to confirm that Belgium wishes to extend its status as a member on a provisional basis of the International Seabed Authority beyond 16 November 1996, to 16 November 1998 at the latest.

Belgium has initiated, and is actively pursuing, the internal procedures for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

Belgium requests the Council of the International Seabed Authority to grant it the benefit of the application of section 1, paragraph 12 (a), of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

(Signed) Erik DERYCKE
Minister for Foreign Affairs

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]

Letter dated 16 October 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and in particular to section 1, paragraph 12 (a), whereby the Council of the Authority is empowered to extend the membership of States or entities which are members of the Authority on a provisional basis.

In relation to the foregoing, and on behalf of my country, I request the Council of the International Seabed Authority to extend Chile's status as a member on a provisional basis for two years from 16 November 1996, the date on which that membership expires.

(Signed) José Miguel INSULZA
Minister for Foreign Affairs

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

[Original: English]

Letter dated 11 November 1996 from the Council of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

With reference to paragraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the Appendix to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and to your letter to Mr. Van den Broek of 27 August 1996, I would ask you to submit to the Council of the Authority the European Community's request for extension of its provisional membership of the International Seabed Authority beyond 16 November 1996, for a period of two years.

The European Community would like to inform the Council of the Authority that the conditions laid down in article 3 of Annex IX to the Convention for formal confirmation of its signature have only recently been fulfilled and that the Community remains resolved to conclude the Convention and the Agreement as soon as the necessary procedures to that end have been completed.

(Signed) R. QUINN

GABON

[Original: French]

Letter dated 21 October 1996 from the Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Gabon addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

With reference to the decisions of the Assembly and the Council of the International Seabed Authority of August 1996, I have the honour to inform you officially by this note that Gabon, in accordance with the possibility offered to it, wishes to continue to be a member on a provisional basis of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed on 10 December 1982 at Montego Bay.

Gabon, which also signed the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention hereby wishes to confirm its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the process for ratification of the Convention is well advanced, and has been deferred until the forthcoming resumption of the National Assembly and installation of the Senate of the Gabonese Republic.

It is in this spirit that we stressed our interest in the Convention by making a favourable reference to the International Seabed Authority in our statement to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

We should therefore be grateful if you would take into account our wish expressed here.

(Signed) Casimir OYE MBA
Minister of State, Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

Letter dated 2 November 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

With reference to your letter dated 27 August 1996 I have the honour to notify you that the Lao People's Democratic Republic is a signatory party to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and would like to submit my request to you to extend the membership of the said Authority beyond 16 November 1996 for a further period.

I hope that my request should be positively considered.

(Signed) Somsavat LENGSAVAD
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MOZAMBIQUE

[Original: English]

Letter dated 3 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and in particular to paragraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the annex thereto and to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Mozambique would like to request the Council of the International Seabed Authority [that its membership be extended provisionally] for a period of two years from 16 November 1996.

I have also the honour to inform you that the necessary procedures to ratify the Convention are currently under way in accordance with our national Constitution, but may not be completed before the expiry of our provisional membership in the Authority on 16 November 1996.

(Signed) Carlos DOS SANTOS
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

POLAND

[Original: English]

Letter dated 13 August 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland addressed to the Council of the International Seabed Authority

In accordance with section 1, paragraph 12 (a), of the Annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and further to the notification by the Government of the Republic of Poland of the intention to participate as a member in the International Seabed Authority, on a provisional basis, dated 25 July 1996, I have the honour to request the Council to extend the membership of Poland in the Authority beyond 16 November 1996 for the period of two years.

(Signed) Dariusz ROSATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs

QATAR

[Original: English]

Note verbale dated 24 February 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the International Seabed Authority

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the International Seabed Authority and has the honour to notify that the State of Qatar wishes to continue its provisional membership of the International Seabed Authority for a period of two years starting 16 November 1996.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Original: English]

Note verbale dated 16 September 1996 from the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Jamaica addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Jamaica presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and, referring to section 1, paragraph 12 (a), of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, in conformity with instructions has the honour to request the Council of the International Seabed Authority to extend the provisional membership of the Russian Federation in the Authority for one year after 16 November 1996. The Embassy would like to note that the Russian Federation has been applying the Agreement on a provisional basis since 5 January 1995 and that at present a draft law on ratification of the 1982 Convention by the Russian Federation is under consideration in the national Federal Assembly.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

[Original: English]

Note verbale dated 12 February 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

The Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and has the honour to refer to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, adopted by the General Assembly on 28 July 1994, and in particular to paragraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the annex thereto.

Solomon Islands requests that the Council of the Authority extend Solomon Islands' provisional membership of the Authority for a period of two years, from 16 November 1996. Solomon Islands has applied the Agreement provisionally as of February 1995 pending its entry into force for Solomon Islands. The Government of Solomon Islands remains committed to the ratification of the 1982 Convention but unfortunately, the necessary internal procedures to enable Solomon Islands to ratify have not yet been completed. Solomon Islands wishes to inform the Council and the Authority that it will continue to make good-faith efforts to become a party to the Convention and the Agreement.

SWITZERLAND

[Original: French]

Letter dated 16 October 1996 from the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

On 16 November 1996, Switzerland's status as a member, on a provisional basis, of the International Seabed Authority will come to an end, unless it requests an extension.

I have the honour to request the Council of the Authority that the status of Switzerland as a member of the Authority on a provisional basis should be extended for two years. This extension is justified, in the view of the Swiss authorities, by the fact that Switzerland intends to ratify the Convention soon and, to that end, will send a message to Parliament, at the beginning of 1997, with a view to approval of the Convention. Once the message has been sent, the procedure for parliamentary approval and ratification will take at least one year.

(Signed) Lucius CAFLISCH
Jurisconsult, Federal Department
of Foreign Affairs

UKRAINE

[Original: English]

Letter dated 15 November 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

I have the honour to inform you that Ukraine, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on

the Law of the Sea, is maintaining, until 16 November 1997, its membership in the International Seabed Authority on a provisional basis.

(Signed) Gennadi UDOVENKO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 31 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, which entered into force on 28 July 1996.

I should like to inform you that the Government of the United Arab Emirates would like to maintain its provisional membership in the International Seabed Authority until 16 November 1998 on the understanding that it will continue to make efforts in good faith to meet the legal and technical requirements to become a party to the Convention and to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

Letter dated 4 November 1996 from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, adopted by the General Assembly on 28 July 1994, and in particular to paragraph 12 (a) of section 1 of the annex thereto.

On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I hereby request the Council of the International Seabed Authority to extend the United Kingdom's provisional membership of the International Seabed Authority for a period of one year from 16 November 1996.

In this connection I wish to assure you that the Government of the United Kingdom considers that the long-term interests of the United Kingdom will be best served by accession to the Convention.

(Signed) Robin KEALY
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs